

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 14, 16 through 21, 31, and 33 through 38 are pending, with Claims 14, 18, 31, and 35 being independent. Claims 15 and 32 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 31, 33, 34, 35, and 36 have been amended.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended in granting and conducting on July 26, 2007, a personal interview with Applicants' representative. At the interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the outstanding rejections, which are respectfully traversed, as well as proposed amendments to the claims. Applicants understand that the Examiner is in tentative agreement that the proposed amendments would obviate the outstanding rejections, and the claims have been so amended. It will be appreciated that the amendments include, *inter alia*, changing "preferentially" to --gives priority to-- per the Examiner's kind suggestion.

Also, Applicants respectfully wish to point out that the reference at page 9, line 5 of the July 18, 2007 remarks to "AC" should have read --ACK--.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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